

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY – FALL 2024



MACOMB



QUAD CITIES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
WESTERN HALL, MACOMB, IL

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A GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Western Illinois University Class of 2024,

Congratulations! Today is a day of celebration!

This is the day you imagined when you chose Western for your education. You have dreamed about today. Your hard work, dedication, and persistence has brought you here.

As you sit among your classmates surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones, take a moment to reflect on all you have achieved. Along the way, you have been tested and faced challenges that have strengthened and shaped your character. You have adapted to new ways of learning by navigating personal and global uncertainties. Your Leatherneck family is proud of your remarkable courage and determination. You've overcome obstacles that seemed insurmountable, and in doing so, you've proven not just to yourselves, but to the world that you are ready for whatever comes next.

Life's greatest lessons come from hardship. When things go wrong, that is when you innovate, pivot, and persevere. It is easy to thrive when things are going well, but the tough times are when you discover what you are made of and surpass others' expectations, and even your own. Celebrate the progress you made and reflect on the milestones that led you to success. While you celebrate, stay humble and grateful. Recognize your supporters, teammates, and even those individuals who may have underestimated your potential.

Your resilience in navigating a rapidly changing world and your commitment to innovation and inclusion are how you became a Leatherneck. Your positive contributions to our campus community have left a lasting mark on Western Illinois University. You've inspired us with your talent, curiosity, and determination, and we are proud to count you among our alumni.

Now, go out and make your mark on the world. The future is yours to shape, and we cannot wait to see the incredible things you will accomplish.

Congratulations, Western Illinois University Class of 2024!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristi Mindrup". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristi Mindrup, Ph.D.
President

COLLEGE SCHOLARS

Each of Western Illinois University's four academic colleges, the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, the Centennial Honors College, and the University Libraries select a graduating senior as the unit's outstanding student. Each Scholar receives a gold medallion on a purple and gold ribbon in recognition of their high achievement.



Emily A. Richardson
(Osceola, MO)
Graduates with a B.S. degree in Mathematics and Geographic Information Science with highest academic distinction, Summa Cum Laude. Emily is also the Mathematics Department Scholar and a Centennial Honors Scholar.

**Arts and Sciences
Scholar**



Cody Thomas Cornell
(Columbia, IL)
Graduates with a B.S. degree in Agriculture with high academic distinction, Magna Cum Laude. Cody is also the Agriculture Department Scholar and a Centennial Honors Scholar.

**Business and
Technology
Scholar**



Guinevere C. Skovronski
(Colona, IL)
Graduates with a B.S.Ed. degree in Elementary Education.

**Education and Human
Services Scholar**



Kendra Rose Hallberg
(Kankakee, IL)
Graduates with a B.F.A. degree in Art, with high academic distinction, Magna Cum Laude.

**Fine Arts and
Communication
Scholar**



Sidni M. Ringberg
(Geneseo, IL)
Graduates with a B.S. degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, with high academic distinction, Magna Cum Laude. Sidni is also the Law Enforcement and Justice Administration Department Scholar.

**Law Enforcement
and Justice
Administration
Scholar**



Sandra Simpson
(Bushnell, IL)
Graduates with a B.A. degree in General Studies. Sandra is also the General Studies Department Scholar.

**University Libraries
Scholar**

HONORS SCHOLARS

An Honors Scholar is a student in Western's Centennial Honors College who has completed a set of Honors requirements and has achieved a grade point average of at least 3.40. These candidates wear a gold medallion on a light blue ribbon.

DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARS

Departmental Scholars are the outstanding undergraduate degree candidates in an academic major as determined by the faculty in the major department. These candidates wear a gold medallion on a sapphire blue ribbon.

ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

Candidates for the baccalaureate degree, who have earned a minimum 60 semester hours of graded courses at Western, are eligible for graduation with academic distinction. Coursework completed at WIU, and all transferable hours, are calculated to determine honors. The academic distinction of Cum Laude is awarded to students with a grade point average of 3.60-3.74 on a 4.00 scale. These candidates wear a silver medallion on a gold ribbon. The academic distinction of Magna Cum Laude is awarded to students with a grade point average of 3.75-3.89. These candidates wear a silver medallion on a purple ribbon. The academic distinction of Summa Cum Laude is awarded to students with a grade point average of 3.90 or higher. These candidates wear a silver medallion on a red ribbon.



COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
Saturday, December 14, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.

Prelude.....	WIU Wind Ensemble Michael Fansler, Conductor
Processional.....	Wind Ensemble “Fanfare and Processional, from March No. 1 in D Major, Op. 39, No. 1,” by Sir Edward Elgar, arranged by James D. Ployhar
National Anthem.....	Elizabeth Huntley “The Star Spangled Banner,” by Francis Scott Key Bachelor of Fine Arts, Class of 2024
Master of Ceremonies	Mark Mossman Interim Provost and Academic Vice President
Greetings from the Board of Trustees	Carin Stutz Board of Trustees Chair
Distinguished University Professor.....	Interim Provost Mossman Recipient: Dr. Richard Cangro, School of Music
Remarks to the Graduating Class	Kristi Mindrup “Underdog Energy: Motivate, Activate, Celebrate!” President
Alumni Achievement Awards.....	Eldon Brown, Class of 1996 Recipients: Melody A. Betts, Class of 2009 President, Alumni Council Steven D. Hensley, Class of 1983, 1990
Honors Speaker Remarks: “Your Why Matters”	Emily Richardson Honors Scholar in Mathematics Bachelor of Science, Class of 2024
Presentation of Candidates, Doctoral Degrees	Christopher Pynes Interim Associate Provost for Academic Programs
Conferring of Doctoral Degrees.....	President Mindrup
Presentation of Candidates, Graduate Degrees	Interim Associate Provost Pynes
Conferring of Graduate Degrees.....	President Mindrup
Hooding of College of Arts and Sciences Graduates.....	James Schmidt, Interim Dean
Hooding of College of Business and Technology Graduates.....	Tara Feld, Interim Dean
Hooding of College of Education and Human Services Graduates..	Eric Sheffield, Interim Dean
Hooding of College of Fine Arts and Communication Graduates	William Clow, Dean
Hooding of School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration Graduates.....	Interim Associate Provost Pynes

Presentation of Candidates, College of Arts and Sciences	Interim Dean Schmidt
Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees, College of Arts and Sciences	President Mindrup
Presentation of Candidates, College of Business and Technology	Interim Dean Feld
Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees, College of Business and Technology	President Mindrup
Presentation of Candidates, College of Education and Human Services	Interim Dean Sheffield
Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees, College of Education and Human Services	President Mindrup
Presentation of Candidates, College of Fine Arts and Communication	Dean Clow
Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees, College of Fine Arts and Communication	President Mindrup
Presentation of Candidates, General Studies Degree Program	Héctor Maymí-Sugrañes, Dean
Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees, General Studies Degree Program	President Mindrup
Presentation of Candidates, School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration.....	Interim Associate Provost Pynes
Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees, School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration.....	President Mindrup
Welcome to Alumni Association.....	Brown
Closing Remarks.....	Interim Provost Mossman
Recessional.....	Wind Ensemble
"Fanfare and Recessional," by James D. Ployhar	

PROCESSIONAL INTRODUCTIONS

Randy Glean, Associate Vice President for Global Studies

ACADEMIC READERS

Doctoral

Christopher Pynes, Interim Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Programs, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness

Graduate

Randy Glean, Associate Vice President for Global Studies

Undergraduate

Elizabeth Hansen, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Philosophy
College of Arts and Sciences

Joel Gruver, Professor of Agriculture
College of Business and Technology

Benjamin Brewer, Assistant Professor of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration
School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration

Brian Locke, Professor of Music
College of Fine Arts and Communication

MARSHALS

Briza A. Dure Alvarenga
Callie Jean Huffman
Caleb Augustus Lorenzen
Ryan Merklinger
Aaron D. Meunier
Emily A. Richardson
Maya Lynn Steinke
Carlene Jean VanDuyne

FALL ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Two Western Illinois University alumni have been honored with the prestigious WIU Alumni Achievement Award. These individuals exemplify the excellence and impact that WIU alumni continue to make in their respective fields.

This year's Alumni Achievement recipients are Melody A. Betts and Steven D. Hensley.

The Western's Alumni Achievement Award is presented to individuals who have made exceptional contributions in one or more of the following areas: outstanding accomplishment in their chosen field of endeavor, remarkable service in community affairs at the local, state, or national levels, and extraordinary dedication to the advancement and sustained excellence of WIU. This award acknowledges and celebrates individuals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and impact in their professional pursuits, community service, and support for the University's ongoing excellence.

Melody A. Betts, a 2009 Master of Fine Arts in Theatre graduate, recently wrapped up her run as Aunt Em/Evilene in the 2024 Broadway revival of "The Wiz." Betts played the two roles when the production launched its pre-Broadway tour in the Fall of 2023 through the end of the Broadway run in August 2024.

In May, Betts was recognized with two Helen Hayes Awards, the theatre award program for the Washington, DC region. She earned Outstanding Supporting Performer in a Musical for her role in the Olney Theatre Center's production of "FELA!" and Outstanding Performer in a Visiting Production for the Pre-Broadway tour of "The Wiz." In August 2024, Betts was honored with a Black Excellence Award from the WIU Black Alumni Council.

Betts has previously served on the WIU Alumni Council and is the founder and former president of the Dumela Alumni Council, which aims to bridge gaps in inclusivity, creating safe spaces for students of color in WIU's Department of Theatre and Dance.

Through her work with Dumela, Betts has remained involved with the Department of Theatre and Dance and has returned to campus many times. In 2020, Betts hosted two question and answer sessions with Theatre and Dance students, setting aside time to meet with and provide support specifically for the students of color in the



Melody A. Betts
Class of 2009

department. In the Spring 2022 semester, Betts returned as an artist in residence and directed WIU's production of "Welcome to Matteson." In the Fall of 2022, Betts, along with other members of the Dumela Alumni Council, hosted a reunion concert in Horrabin Theatre.

Betts even took the time to meet with WIU Theatre and Dance students and alumni when "The Wiz" tour stopped in Chicago in December 2023. Dumela members and current WIU students hosted

a networking social before attending that evening's performance. Betts paused her pre-show routine to attend the student event, a pre-show social hosted by the WIU Alumni Association, and then a private post-show talk-back just for WIU that included other members of the cast.

Beyond "The Wiz," Betts has many credits to her name, including the Broadway and national tour productions of "Waitress," the national tour of "The Sound of Music," and the original off-Broadway cast of "Invisible Thread." She can be seen playing the role of April in the 2024 film "Screams from the Tower." On television, Betts has appeared on "Arrested Development," "The Chicago Code," "Chicago P.D.," "Jesus Christ Superstar: Live in Concert" with John Legend and Sara Bareilles, "Power," "South Side," "Chicago Fire," and "I Can See Your Voice." Additionally, Betts has numerous regional theatre credits.

FALL ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS (CONTINUED)

Steven D. Hensley, a 1983 Bachelor of Business in Accountancy and 1990 Master of Business Administration graduate, started his career at Federal-Mogul in Macomb in 1984 as an accountant. He was promoted to Accounting Supervisor in 1985 and MRP II Implementation Manager in 1987. Also in 1985, a merger of Federal-Mogul with NTN-Toyo Bearing Company, Ltd., formed NTN-Bower. In 1987, NTN acquired 100% of the company.



Steven D. Hensley
Classes of 1983, 1990

In 1988, Hensley relocated to NTN-Bower's corporate headquarters in Bingham Farms, MI, where he worked as a Pricing Manager and then General Accounting Manager for NTN-Bower. In 1993, Hensley was promoted to the Corporate Accounting Department and moved back to Macomb as Manager of Cost Control for NTN-Bower. The corporate headquarters for NTN-Bower was moved to Macomb that same year.

In 1998, Hensley left NTN-Bower and spent a decade as an Edward Jones Financial Advisor. In 2009, he returned to NTN-Bower as the Corporate Controller until he was promoted to Vice President of Administration and Secretary of the Board of Directors for NTN-Bower. In 2015, Hensley was named Treasurer of the Board of Directors. In 2016, he was promoted to Vice President of Operations and in 2023 he was promoted to Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administration Officer, the position he held until his retirement in October 2024. In his capacity as Vice President, Hensley had a hand in all of the North America operations of NTN-Global's impressive global enterprise, including more than 50 plants worldwide. NTN-Global is the third-largest bearing manufacturer in the world. Hensley has

been the driving force behind major initiatives at NTN-Bower. Under his leadership, the facility implemented twelve separate initiatives in 2016, making significant efforts to reduce energy and water consumption. For these efforts, NTN-Bower was awarded a 2017 Illinois Sustainability Award by the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center.

In 2020, when many people were out of work due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Hensley championed updating NTN-

Bower's hiring policies to bring more employees into the facility. Hensley also regularly recruits WIU students to work as interns and WIU graduates for full-time positions at NTN-Bower.

Hensley is a familiar face in the Macomb area, volunteering for numerous community causes. He is also deeply involved with WIU, starting with his days as a resident assistant. He has given his time to serve on the WIU Athletics Leatherneck Club Advisory Board. Hensley can frequently be found at WIU Athletics events, Performing Arts Society activities, Alumni Association programs, and other WIU events. Football fans are sure to recognize Hensley at tailgates, as he is a co-owner of the famous "fanbulance" refurbished ambulance that can be seen on Saturdays in Q-Lot.

Through his philanthropy, Hensley has earned recognition in the WIU Foundation Fellows, which recognizes donors who support WIU in significant ways. His giving priorities include Athletics, the Rocky on Parade project, the Student Emergency Fund, the Performing Arts Society, the College of Business & Technology, and the Accountancy program. Hensley's two children are also WIU graduates.

DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
DR. RICHARD M. CANGRO



Originally from Staten Island, NY, Richard M. Cangro, Ph. D., is a Professor and Director of Music Education at Western Illinois University. He was formerly a public school band and orchestra director for 15 years in Connecticut, as well as a youth ensemble conductor and chamber music coach for the Hartt School Community Division, University of Hartford (West Hartford, CT). While teaching in Connecticut, he also worked for 10 years as an assessor for the Connecticut State Board of Education beginning teacher licensure program and was the professional development chair for the Connecticut Music Educators Association. Dr. Cangro received a Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, a Master of Music Education from the Hartt School, and a Ph.D. in Music Education also from Hartt. With his dissertation focusing on applying cooperative learning strategies to instrumental music learning, Dr. Cangro continues to investigate the nature and effects of student interaction at all levels of music learning. He served for several years on the executive board for the International Association for the Study of Cooperation in Education (IASCE).

A two-time Fulbright grant recipient, Dr. Cangro is active as a presenter, curriculum consultant, adjudicator, and conductor. He has presented workshops and sessions for several school district in-services and at numerous music educator conferences throughout the US. He has guest taught at universities in Turkey,

Thailand, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Pakistan, Ecuador, Canada, and China, and has presented professional development at events in Canada, China, England, Montenegro, Myanmar, Serbia, and Taiwan (ROC). His articles on music learning and teaching have been published in journals including *Applications of Research in Music Education*, *Selected Papers from the 6th International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education*, *American Music Teacher*, and *Music Educators Journal*.

Musically, Dr. Cangro has a wide range of performance experience as a trumpet player and conductor. He is a member of the Knox-Galesburg Symphony and the Jacksonville (IL) Symphony, performs with the Southeast Iowa Symphony, and has been an active orchestral player and chamber musician for over 30 years. He has conducted several school, festival, community, and adult ensembles, and is currently the music director/conductor of the Monmouth Civic Orchestra at Monmouth College and the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra.

At WIU, Dr. Cangro teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in music education, advises the collegiate music educators chapter, and supervises student teachers. He serves on several university committees and is the Midwest regional vice president of the national Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society, promoting and supporting internationalization efforts in the community. Dr. Cangro is the 2024 WIU Distinguished University Professor.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
J.B. PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

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Venice

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 Dr. Mark Mossman Interim Provost and Academic Vice President
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ACADEMIC DEANS

- Dr. James A. Schmidt, Interim College of Arts and Sciences
 Dr. Tara Feld, Interim College of Business and Technology
 Dr. Eric C. Sheffield, Interim College of Education and Human Services
 Mr. William T. Clow College of Fine Arts and Communication
 Dr. Lorette S. Oden Centennial Honors College
 Dr. Christopher D. Merrett Innovation and Economic Development
 Dr. Héctor Maymí-Sugrañes University Libraries

THE WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CEREMONIAL MACE

The ceremonial mace, a symbol of university scholarship and integrity since the 11th century, is used to lead the academic procession at commencement and other special ceremonial occasions, signifying the importance of the event and the confirmation of the academic process.

The University's mace was designed by WIU Department of Art and Design Chair Kat Myers, and crafted by Myers in collaboration with the late Kenneth B. Epperson, Western alumnus and former WIU Admissions' community college director.

The turned walnut shaft is encircled by three engraved sterling silver bands with four pierced sterling silver fins cradling a freely moving gold sphere.



The fins represent Western Illinois University's four core values—Academic Excellence, Educational Opportunity, Personal Growth, and Social Responsibility—positioned as the four directions of the compass. The sphere, representing the student, is held and guided by the fins as it moves to find its place in the world.

The incorporated sphere was formed by raising, a 3,000-year-old metalsmithing process using steel hammers and forms to shape sheet metal. The sphere is made of 24K gold-plated brass. While the process was chosen as a representation of Western's respect for tradition, the sphere remains mobile, illustrating the University's readiness to adapt as it looks toward an ever-changing future.

ABOUT THE FLAGS

Displayed in the arena are the flags of 18 nations representing students in today's graduating class at Western Illinois University. The flags represent the following countries: Bangladesh, Canada, Dominica, Ghana, Grenada, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Paraguay, St. Kitts and Nevis, Thailand, Turkmenistan, the United States and Zimbabwe. Western Illinois University was home to students from 66 countries during the Fall 2024 semester.

ABOUT THE GONFALONS

Gonfalons made their inaugural appearance in Western's Fall 2009 Commencement ceremonies. The gonfalons are banners hung from a crossbar on poles, which represent the specific group immediately following the gonfalonier, the person carrying the banner.

Their origins date back to medieval Italy, when gonfalons were used to distinguish Italian republics. They have also been used in ecclesiastical processions, as well as in war, and they have evolved into bearing coats of arms for individuals and groups.

Many universities and colleges have adopted the use of gonfalons to enhance the ceremonial nature of commencement exercises.

Today's processions include gonfalons for Western Illinois University, the School of Graduate Studies, the Centennial Honors College, University Libraries and each of the four academic colleges: Arts and Sciences; Business and Technology; Education and Human Services; and Fine Arts and Communication.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The colorful regalia worn by academicians is steeped in tradition, dating back to the ecclesiastical garb of the Middle Ages. Adaptations from ecclesiastical to academic dress began in early European universities, which were founded by the church. University faculty and students wore the adapted robes for distinction and warmth. The University of Cambridge is cited as the first to use the academic gown.

Representatives of American universities met in the early 1890s and agreed upon a standard style of academic attire. The Intercollegiate Code, revised in 1932, and again in 1959, is followed today by American colleges and universities, except for a few schools, which continue to use the styles of England.

Gowns are traditionally black. However, some universities have authorized use of a color symbolic of the institution. Bachelor's gowns have pointed sleeves and are designed to be worn closed. Master's and Specialist gowns have long, closed sleeves with an arc near the bottom and an opening for the arm. Doctoral gowns are faced with wide velvet panels and have bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal velvet bars.

Caps, originally round, are typically square mortarboards. Some universities have adopted a doctor's cap with a soft crown instead of the mortarboard.

ACADEMIC REGALIA (CONTINUED)

At Western, the tassel color of bachelor degree candidates indicates the college or program from which students graduate: College of Arts and Sciences, white for bachelor of arts, gold for bachelor of science, white and gold for bachelor of liberal arts and sciences, and apricot for bachelor of science in nursing; College of Business and Technology, sapphire blue; College of Education and Human Services, light blue for bachelor of science and bachelor of science in education, and citron for bachelor of social work; College of Fine Arts and Communication, brown for bachelor of arts, bachelor of fine arts, and bachelor of science, and pink for bachelor of music and General Studies Degree Program, white for bachelor of arts. Master's tassels are black. Doctoral tassels are old gold.

Hoods, which originally were attached to the gown and could be slipped over the head for warmth, are the most colorful articles of specialist, master's, and doctor's clothing. The color of the lining of the hood represents the university awarding the degree. The color of the facing of the hood reflects the academic discipline of the wearer's highest degree. At Western, the colors awarded for doctoral and graduate degrees are: light blue, education doctorate, education specialist, master of arts in teaching, and master of science in education; gold, specialist in school psychology and master of science; sapphire blue, master of accountancy and master of business administration; white, master of arts; white and gold, master of liberal arts and sciences; pink, master of music and master of public health; and brown, master of fine arts.

Colors which may be seen among the marching faculty and their corresponding fields of study include: brown (fine arts), crimson (journalism), dark blue (philosophy), golden yellow (science), lemon yellow (library science), light blue (education), yellow brown (commerce, business, accountancy), pink (music), purple (law), sage green (physical education), scarlet (theology), gold and white (liberal arts and sciences), and white (arts, letters, humanities).

INFORMATION FOR DEGREE CANDIDATES

Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to participate in Commencement if they anticipate completion of requirements for graduation during the fall semester.

The roster of candidates listed in this program is a compilation of those eligible to participate and who have not submitted the Exclusion of Directory Information Form. It should not be construed either as a complete or official list of those who will receive a University degree. Due to publishing deadlines, names of some degree recipients may not appear, while names of degree candidates may appear even though they have not completed their degree requirements.

Honors distinctions are based on the candidate's academic record at the time of publication.

Diplomas will be mailed approximately eight weeks after Commencement to those who have completed requirements and have no University encumbrances.

The University has arranged for a professional photographer to take individual photographs as students cross the stage. A postcard with the link to the commencement photo galleries will be mailed to the student's home address within 7-14 days of the ceremony. Photographs may be ordered from the website.

The University's official registry for conferral of degrees is the Office of the Registrar.

GUEST INFORMATION

Western is proud to recognize the accomplishments of our graduates and hopes the ceremony is a meaningful event for graduates, families, friends, faculty, and staff.

Please silence all electronic devices. For safety and decorum, aisles must remain clear during the ceremony. Guests are expected to remain seated until the stage party, faculty, and graduates have recessed.

Disability parking and seating are available at Western Hall. Assistive listening devices are available at the sound table south of the stage in Western Hall. Sign language interpretation is also provided. Mobility devices provided by Western are not permitted outside Western Hall.

A public first aid station in Western Hall is located in the east-west hallway behind the lower seating level on the south side.

Please note all emergency exit locations. Emergency exits in Western Hall are located behind the stage at the west end of the gym, through the East Arena, and through the main entry at the north lobby doors.

Western Illinois University is a smoke-free, tobacco-free and marijuana-free campus.

CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE:
LARGE RIVER ECOSYSTEMS

Dr. Roger Viadero, Jr., Director

Samuel Babatunde

“Evaluating the Impact of Continuous Cover Cropping and Kernza on Nitrate and Orthophosphate Retention in Corn-Soybean Rotations: Implications for Drain Water Quality and Environmental Sustainability”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Roger Viadero, Jr.

*Victoria Livingston

“Trace Metal Partitioning in Environmental Compartments in Nahant Marsh, Davenport, Iowa”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Roger Viadero, Jr.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Dr. James LaPrad, Director

Cara Allison Cerullo

“The Impact of Organizational Climate on Burnout of College Counseling Center Clinicians”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Stuart O. Yager

Jodi K. Pospeschil

“Who are ‘They’ and How Did We Get Here? Examining the Impact of Transactional Journalism and Higher Education Ethics Training on Balanced News Coverage”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Tracy L. Davis

Kirsten A. Knowles

“The Role K-12 Education Plays in Ending Cyclical Poverty”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Stuart O. Yager

***Completed degree requirements Summer 2024**

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATE DEGREES

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

THEATRE

Ms. Tammy Killian, *Chair*

* Corinna Belle Knighten

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MASTER OF ARTS

ENGLISH

Dr. Marjorie Allison, *Chair*

* Heather Christine
Breidenbach

* Kirsten Lippold

* Connor M. Sullivan

HISTORY

Dr. Timothy Roberts, *Chair*

Logan Lommel

SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Tawnya Adkins Covert,
Chair

Jennifer Ofoe

MASTER OF SCIENCE

BIOLOGY

Dr. Richard Musser, *Interim
Chair*

Ebby Ayaegbunam
Jacob Kent Dodson
Chiamaka Francisca
Igweonu
Wanprakai Kaewphrae

Emily Ann Korte
Jehnsen Lebsock
Sarah Obregon

* Oluwaseyi Emmanuel
Omodiminiyi

Joshua Temiloluwa
Oyeboade
Kofi Bediako Prempeh-
Fordjour

CHEMISTRY

Dr. Keith Boeckelman, *Acting
Chair*

Ammar Al-Bataineh
Olivia Elaine Brinker
Michael Combs
Jacob Provis

GISCIENCE AND GEOENVIRONMENT

Dr. Samuel Thompson, *Chair*

Leonard Anyan-Darko
Elise Lauren Bush
Priestly Osemudiamen
Ebhamen

Siji Samuel Omole
* Kelvin Ossai
Kalyan Chakravarthi Peddi
Shavoy Powell
Anthony M. Yattoni

MATHEMATICS

Dr. Victoria Baramidze, *Chair*

Maral Tajova

PHYSICS

Dr. Kishor Kapale, *Chair*

* Md. Nazmul Haque Nihad
* Punya Paudel
* Amisha Jagdish Rane

PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. David Lane, *Chair*

* Maame Esi Assafuah
* Matthew Michael Barry
* Chukwunonso Leo Ofili

TEACHING MATHEMATICS

Dr. Victoria Baramidze, *Chair*

Stephanie Altgilbers
* Tamara J. Clarke
* Sydney Elizabeth
Himmelman
* Jessica Nooney
Katherine Rose Schnoeker
* Carolyn Sutton

*Completed degree requirements Summer 2024

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

ACCOUNTANCY

Dr. Jessica Lin, Director

Ashlee Nicole Taylor Boelens

* Bailey Roselieb

Skyler Stropes

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Bruce Western, Director

Monia Akter

Oluwadolapo

Oluwafunmilayo Alaka

Ja'net L. Burdette

Anthony Casaletto

* Lima Chaneal Daisy

Kyle Dunlap

* Matthew Flanagan

Bree Allan Gaffney

Kyle Harrington

Tawakalit O. Ibiyeye

Allison Kopatich

Alexander Krist

Jenna Anne Lehman

Nikola Ljubic

* Selina Anne Mannion

* James P. McGowan Jr.

Megan Joy McIntyre

Elizabeth Mitsdarffer

Riley Mitsdarffer

Kuralenthi Narayanan

Megan Ann Opiekun

Mary Otu

Preston Taylor Payne

Rajahna Reed

Jajuanta Robinson

* Fabian Schinzel

Cesciley Shonkwiler

* Hunter Stidham

Becky Taylor

* William R. Troccoli

Joshua Travis Watterson

Andre'a Danie'lle Wylie

Zachary James Zang

Sumair Zeeshan

MASTER OF SCIENCE

APPLIED STATISTICS AND DECISION ANALYTICS

Dr. Jessica Lin, Director

Prince Kwaku Asamoah

Oluwadurotimi Victor Ayeni

Mohan Raj Kumar Bathula

Charity Chepchirchir

Vamshi Krishna Gade

Akhila Gampa

Jeremiah Terdoo Iornenge

Patience John-Chukwu

Abdul Rajak Mohmmad

* Tyreke Nikio Moore

Satish Reddy Mutthana

Rakesh Reddy Nallagondla

Sylvester Asan Ninsin

Dinesh Chowdary Nune

Obinna Prosper Nweke

Olanrewaju Olukoya

OdumuwaGun

Ololade Esther Olanian

Asua Peace Onwuka

Oluwapelumi Oyewole

Krishna Prasad Reddy Palvai

Janvi Patel

Sushanth Pathigolla

Shaifali Patwal

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Mohan Rao Pulugulla

* Ratan Teja Punati

* Surya Sawhney

Joshua Uzezi Umavezi

Sandeep Reddy Vermareddy

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Dennis DeVolder, Director

Ekene Adim

Vishnu Pratheek Adupa

Teslim Aminu

* Aravind Goud Annaboina

Ridham Avaiya

* Divya Sai Banalla

Tharunya Banda

Chaitanya Boddu

* Farzana Tasnim Bony

Hari Priya Burgu

Sumathi Challa

* Janakiram Chilukuri

VijayaSai Chittala

* Siddhardha Chittineni

* Abhishek Dandu

Dhana Lakshmi Dasari

* Venkata Chakravarthy

Devarapu

Appa Rao Devarasetty

* Revathi Devarkonda

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Satheesh Doma

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Ebrahim

Iyinoluwa Elizabeth Fatoki

Ajay Kumar Gadde

Shiva Kumar Ganduru

Chanukya Reddy Gangi

Ravi Teja Gannamani

Arunkumar Gongadala

Rajesh Reddy Govindinne

Joshila Gubbala

Sunny Kamal Guddeti

Charan Sai Gurralla

Ramesh Chowdary Jasti

Gunasekhar Chowdary Jasty

Hari Krishna Kaka

***Completed degree requirements Summer 2024**

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Meghana Kandala	Koushik Perepa	* Modupe Ebunoluwa Arowolo
Supraja Katta	Raphael Popoola	* Kandarp Balar
Navya Koduri	Sushma Pothuneedi	Marvin Maurio Baptiste
Chakradhar Rao Konda	Vishnu Vandana Pyatla	Oluremi Hamid
* Sai Teja Kondapalli	Prudhvi Raj Rapeti	Md. Raisul Islam
Goutham Rama Krishna	* Dhana Sagar Ravuri	Parth R. Kachhiya
Koppakula	* Anushruti Rawat	Kavya Malika Karne
Yamuna Durga Prasad Kota	Sukesh Reddy Rondla	* Darshan Malaviya
Kashyap Kotcherlakota Giri	Ibrahim Sanusi	* Yousif Ahmed Nasher
Sai	Likhitha Seelam	* Richard Asamoah Oppong
Nagarjuna Reddy Kunduru	Mastan Sharif Shaik	Elvis Owusu
Vigneshwar Reddy Likki	Wasim Shaik	Ebubechukwu Ozurumba
Unika Reddy Malreddy	Kiran Kumar Sonnathi	* Hirakkumar Arunbhai Patel
Rama Seshu Mannem	Lohith Charan Sai Kumar	* Shivaniben Patel
Dinesh Sai Merugu	Suriseti	Dhruvin Patolia
Roshan Mohammad	Suresh Babu Tadikamalla	Md Anisur Rahman
Abdul Rahman Mohammed	Revanth Venkata Gurunadh	* Mahipalsinh Solanki
Kusal Movva	Talluri	
Revanth Kumar Muppiri	Likhith Tammineedi	INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN
* Tharun Reddy Myaka	Trinadh Thimmisetty	AND TECHNOLOGY
Abhinav Myakala	* Priyanka Thodupunuri	<i>Mr. Rafael Obregon, Director</i>
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Praful Reddy	Sudheer Vadlamudi	Kathryn Beavers
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Manisha Navath	Naveen Vinjamuri	Caitlin Loizon
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- * Aminat Olayiwola
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Sylvia Angelova

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Remi K. Irwin

Cum Laude

Remi K. Irwin

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Summa Cum Laude

Tyler Joseph Raspante

Cum Laude

Madeline Kotler

—

Isabella Elizabeth Bolzenius
Zachary Giamis
Khyla E. Whitelaw

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Aaliyah G. Knight

Cum Laude

Aaliyah G. Knight

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Kale R. Campagna
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* Emily A. Richardson

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Jayvin S. Wonsley

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Summa Cum Laude

Drew Edward Hecox

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Kenneth W. VanZuiden

PSYCHOLOGY

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* Callie Jean Huffman

Summa Cum Laude

Kaitlyn R. Ellis

* Callie Jean Huffman

—

Elizabeth Moriah Avalos

Ashanti Cunningham

Brooklyn Rae Denney

Emerson L. Ellington

Madee Ertmer

Grace M. Heimer

Alexander Holliday

Aaliyah N. Houston-Lyle

Jordan K. Hunt

Cody Jackson

Nancy Marie Leinwander

McKinley Marcotte

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Bryce Joseph Williams

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

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ECONOMICS

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Department Scholar

Ryan Merklinger

Magna Cum Laude

Ryan Merklinger

—
Matthew M. Sullivan

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS

ACCOUNTANCY

Dr. Jessica Lin, Director

Department Scholar

John A. Nonnenmann

Summa Cum Laude

John A. Nonnenmann

Magna Cum Laude

Zachary Ellis Martinez

Cum Laude

Natalia Noemi Rosales

—
Pablo-Augusto Alonso

Payton Holmes

Cameron R. Jacobson

John Jenkins

Kiel J. Kamin

Siobhan McManus

Jessica M. Moseley

Susan G. Turpin

Raymond Wiese

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Shianne D. Jeffers

—
Fredmina Augustin

Shianne D. Jeffers

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Katarina Marie Goumas

—
Jennifer L. Gordon

Katarina Marie Goumas

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Evan Schillinger

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Gavin J. Bussert

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Dasani Martinez

Megan L. Navarro

Kayla Jo Parker

Maria Perez-Morales

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Peace D. Agbavito

Cum Laude

Peace D. Agbavito

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Leah M. Ahlers

Lonnell J. Foster Jr.

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SUPPLY CHAIN

MANAGEMENT

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Department Scholar

Matthew L. Crone

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Magna Cum Laude

*Cody Thomas Cornell

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Tessa Jo Sargeant

Sawyer W. Schlipf

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Lindsey Michelle Tassell

Hailey Tweedy

Jett R. Vickery

#Steven Wright

Nathalie Zabramba

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Dennis DeVolder, Director

Department Scholar

Tina Rene Moore

Magna Cum Laude

Tina Rene Moore

Christian S. Sphar

Cum Laude

Landon M. Reed

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Matthew D. DeBoer

Desmond M. Graves

Jaken L. Hicks

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Alfred Rose

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*Nicholas W. Sawires

Magna Cum Laude

*Nicholas W. Sawires

Cum Laude

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Michael Lynn Thomas Knapp

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Douglas Francis Mecum

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Adam J. Bowker

Magna Cum Laude

Nashida Stacia Bertrand

—
Adam J. Bowker

Shardenai Davis

Boone Formhals

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Heber Zárate

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Edyn A. Word

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BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

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Aaron D. Meunier

Magna Cum Laude

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Cum Laude
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Jayla Anthony

Kyle Baker

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Amanda Birnbaum

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Bryon Deege

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Claire Diaz

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Jamie Lee Dunning

Demi Gibbs

Annemarie Graham

Brooks A. Greene

Aidan Harrison

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Alexis Hernandez

Brent W. Hopkins

Dale Kenneth Kirkendoll

Jason Klappauf

Lura Krueger

Nathan Lamb

Kody Langeland

Brandon Lanier

Joanna Lisa Lee

Trevor Leon

Zachary Ryan Loehrl

Kyle Jacob Lokken

Eli Loving

Julie M. Maioriello

Tara Mason

Marcos Molina Quebrado

Rebecca Bradshaw Myers

Isaiah Neumann

Elena J. Nyman

Nicholas Olson

KaCey L. Pettit

Andrew Polyack

Iosefa Pua'auli

Monique Alicia Remy

Jessica Robinson

Sara R. Sanderson

Kara Schipper

Sandra Simpson

Nayah Slattery

Maxwell Slavens

Maranda Smith

Herbert Sommer

Beth Marie Stevens

Lauren Stremmel

Tahja Temple

Abena Zakiyah Kunto Trice

Jada Annette Wilson

Joshua Wilson

Donald Young

SCHOOL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

EMERGENCY

MANAGEMENT

*Dr. Christopher Pynes, Interim
Associate Provost for Academic
Programs*

Department Scholar

William A. Simmons Jr.

—
Joseph R. Chase

Christian J. Gilkey

Shafiya G. Rapp

William A. Simmons Jr.

FIRE PROTECTION

SERVICES

*Dr. Christopher Pynes, Interim
Associate Provost for Academic
Programs*

Cum Laude

Chad E. Fiers

—
Manfred Henderson

James I. Thorp

R. Stephen Wiewel

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND

JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

*Dr. Christopher Pynes, Interim
Associate Provost for Academic
Programs*

Department Scholar

Sidni M. Ringberg

Magna Cum Laude

Seth C. Mack

Sidni M. Ringberg

Cum Laude

Angel Estrada Jr.

Nicholas W. Frey

Jessica Danielle Hughes

* Centennial Honors Scholar

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (CONTINUED)

Marquita Sayles
Nathan A. Smith

—

Adebisi A. Ademokunla

Heidi L. Barclay

Aidan M. Bell

Ethan T. Church

Matthew Clark

Matthew McKinsey

Cleveland

Zackery Davis

Chamaryi Phane Annecha

Dixon

John J. Engel

Bennett Franson

Andrew M. Garcia

Domanesha S. Glover

Katlynn Hanson

Jesus Lara-Parra

Alyssa A. Lawson

Jaquelin Leon

Brendon Lopina

Chante' Angela Lovett

Manuel Luna III

Dylan Reed McCafferty

Patrick J. Mergens

Ramadan J. Moore

Femi Oyetayo

Donovanne Parker

Cesar Perez

Yzaias Luis-Angel Perez

Derek Pesina

Isaiah Cruz Rincon

Karen A. Rodriguez

Kara Rogers

Kyle L. Ruark

Wyatt A. Rudsell

Maria-Elena Ruvalcaba

Lucas Sipp

Elizabeth R. Taylor

Jade Ariel Rose Traylor

Ryan T. Watson

Isabella White

Kaylee M. Wilhelms

Emma Williams

Nashanna J. Willis

Sean P. Zahari

HISTORY OF WESTERN

On April 24, 1899, a bill to establish Western Illinois University (then called Western Illinois State Normal School) was passed by the state legislature. Macomb was selected in 1900 as the location for the new normal school in west central Illinois, and on Tuesday, September 23, 1902, Western Illinois State Normal School opened its doors for the first official day of classes on the new campus.

In 1921, the General Assembly changed the name of Western Illinois State Normal School to Western Illinois State Teachers College, and in 1947, the school was renamed Western Illinois State College. Ten years later, the school became Western Illinois University. Illinois Gov. William G. Stratton approved the change July 5, 1957, and Western began its transformation into a university.

Today, Western offers numerous undergraduate and graduate degree programs, as well as two doctoral programs and several post-baccalaureate certificate programs, and is comprised of the main campus in Macomb, IL, and the urban Quad Cities campus in Moline, IL.





Western Illinois University

Western Hall



